

NM*} ek Cu p\?,
ANC leagueâ\200\224

THIRTY-SIX members of the
ANC womenâ\200\231s league in Pie-
termaritzburg are on a hunger
< ~ prison, demanding
the immediate removal of 32
Battalion, the KwaZulu Po-
the SAP Riot Unit
from Imbali township.
They include elderly women
and were
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detainees, â\200\234
as C! Â» said Mr Reggie
Hadebe, deputy chairman of
the ANC in the Natal Mid-
lands.

He said the women had not

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prisoners embark

on hunger strike

By Geraldine Malherbe

eaten since Friday night and
! n indefi-

nitely, until they were re-

leased and their demands

intended carrying on

met.

Mrs Ida Cronje, wife of ANC

| fund-raising trip

JOHANNESBURGâ\200\224The executive council (NEC) of the ANC womenâ\200\231s league has dis-81'0(\111)

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prominent â\200\230black lawyer Mpofu as heads of welfare

department.

The reinstatement move comes amid disclosures yesterday that Mrs Mandela and Mr Mpofu had allegedly spent R400 000 while on an overseas which included flights from London to New York in the Concorde.

The money was reported to have come from ANC social welfare department coffers but Mr Mpofu was quoted yes-saying the trip was sponsored by the US-based Children for Africa charity organisation.

A statement yesterday from.

the leagueâ\200\231s NEC said correct procedures had not been followed by the disaffected group and innocent, unin-had been mis-they were

involved in a pï¬\202ncipled dem-

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member and Greytown MP pierre Cronje, visited the women yesterday and said they were â\200\234standing firmâ\200\235. Their decision follows mass action and stayaways in Pietermaritzburg this month in support demands for the removal of 39 Battalion, the

onstrationâ\200\231.

Some of Mrs Mandelaâ\200\231s sup-

ithin the leagueâ\200\231â\200\224 the so-called social welfare support committeeâ\200\231 â\200\224 who took â\200\230part press conference last week, were under

the impression that the league's leadership would be at the conference.

The estimated 40 women in the group which hosted the press conference demanded the reinstatement of Mrs Mandela and Mr Mpofu.

The NEC statement noted Mrs Mandela's resignation as head of the ANC's Welfare Department and new allegations of her direct involvement in criminal actions.

Mrs Mandela was re-elected as head of the PWV region of

the ANC women's league.

The NEC said that in the light of her resignation, it failed to understand the de-

mand for her reinstatement.

«The ANC Women's League stands by our leadership,» it

said. «(Sapa) |

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KwaZulu Police
Unit from

death of local

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ANC leader

Skumbuza Ngwenya.

«There's hardly

in Imbali that
someone »

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these people feel

ymore,» said Mrs Cronje.

â\200\234They"re all

&h;y just canâ\200\231t live like that

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worried about their families,

but are prepared

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Col Danie Immelmant, a

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2 i The Natal Mercury Mc;r;day May 25, 1992

Meeting to overcome
constitutional

principles deadloc

JOHANNESBURGâ\200\224Two
high-level meetings on
constitutional negotia-
tions and the search for
peace will be held today
and tomorrow.

Codesaâ\200\231s management com-
mittee meets today in an ef-
fort to overcome the deadlock
in deciding on principles for a
constitution. -

Tomorrow an urgent meet-
ing of the full national peace
committee will be held â\200\224 a
month early because of the es-
calating township violence.

Codesaâ\200\231s management com-

. mittee will try to resolve the
deadlock in guidelines and

-principles to be contained in a

final constitution â\200\224 not by

' discussing substantive issues,

| 'but by setting up structures
to facilitate agreement.

Most of the negotiating will
happen in â\200\230â\200\234â\200\230pehind-the-

_ scenesâ\200\235 discussions between
the ANC and the Govern-
ment, and in technical and
sub-committees.

The ANC last week set out

four â\200\230â\200\230pre-conditionsâ\200\231 for
agreeing to a three-stage plan
for transition. These were
that:

[Decisions by the national
assembly on a final constitu-
tion be accepted by a two-
thirds majority;

[J] There be rigid time-
frames for drafting the final
constitution so the interim
government is in power for a

brief period only;

oA deadlock-breaking mechanism be put in place should a two-thirds majority not be attainable; and

[JA proposed senate play no role in drawing up the con-

Mercury Correspondents

stitution.

The ANC is threatening mass action to support its demands.

The Government is insisting that:-

No time-frames be placed on the negotiation phase. Only after agreement had been reached on the constitution should time-frames be placed on its implementation;

High majority loading (75%) for agreement on regionalism; and S

[JA multiparty executive be entrenched in the constitution.

The Government is prepared to leave a senate out, of the constitution-making stage, but insists on a powerful senate that would act as a guardian of the constitution.

It also insists that all regions be represented equally in the senate, and that the three major parties have equ-

al representation in the senate.

The ANC wants the senate democratically elected â\200\224 not appointed. :

However, there was some scepticism among Codesa participants yesterday over whether these demands were, in fact, â\200\234preconditions or rhetoricâ\200\235.

DP Codesa delegate Ken Andrew believed the ANCâ\200\231s preconditions were â\200\234not all that difficult to meet in order

to get talks going againâ\200\235.

It was likely that the technical committees would try and get agreement and then take this to the management com-

mittee, which would make recommendations to a wider body â\200\224 possibly a smaller plenary session.

Peace accord spokesman

Val Pauquet said tomorrowâ\200\231s meeting of signatories would focus on restoring local administration and services in violence-torn communities.

The committee would also consider inviting political leaders at regional and local levels to advise on ways of making the accord more effective, and on mobilising the security forces to contain the present upsurge of violence, she said.

Urgent matters to be addressed included the lack of full-time participation of members.

She said the ANC had undertaken to respond to a complaint raised by Inkatha that arms caches and Inkatha membership cards were allegedly found in ANC offices.

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| WINNIE Mandela was reportedIy ousted
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- The meeting followed Thursday's demonstration when - about 40 women demonstrated as well,

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The response came after reports that the ANC was investigating fraud involving - cheques worth R400 000 issued while Man-

and lawyer Dali Mpofu were heading - o

the department. Mandela last night denied

any involvement, and said she was dismissed

what legal steps to take. - Sapa

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ups within the mnqzmg:.;tyâ\200\230or

D From Paga 1

of govez'nors.

â\200\234*The National Coi-â\201mmnty Bank wmi-â\202d
provide all the training and other support

meant and developmen

o " -;_;bankr the report said.

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.. tors who would. nommaï-â\201earepresenmhve . and wi

e for the uatwnal community â\200\230bankâ\200\231s board

Taforrnal Finance F'omm, estzb-

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- make Tecommendations to the :egustrar
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WAZULU nature conservation authorities

~are facing increased hostility from blacks

| and should encourage the private sector to

<get involved' in â\200\234ecotourismâ\200\235 developments in
+theregion.

There has also been a breakdown in proper

- communication between tribal authorities and
the ordinary people, leading to distrust or mis-
understanding of the conservation policies of
the KwaZulu Bureau of Natural Resources
(KBNR) .

These are some of the findings of a recent re-
port on the implications of allowing the private
â\200\230sÃ©ctor to invest in KwaZulu tourist areas.

- The 280-page report was compiled for the bu-
â\200\230reau by the Environmerntal Evaluation Unit of
â\200\234the University of Cape Town.

â\200\234Project leader John Fowkes concluded that
although there are several disadvantages asso-
ciated with private: sector involvement, they
are outweighed by the possible benefits.

But he said private ecotourism develop-
ments should be based outside proclaimed
conservation areas wherever possible, and the

bureau should retain control of all activities ing a doMe Ã©nd -of World War II were ; 3

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which affect the management of natural re:
sources.

Examining the attitudes of local people, Mr

* Fowkes said the bureau was seen as the imple-
*menting arm of government in â\200\234taking land

away from the peopleâ\200\235.

And although Chief Minister Mangosuthu

Buthlezi recently stated that no more forced removals would take place to create nature conservation areas, the bureau was seen in some areas as the enemy of the people rather than the supportive friend it should be.

In fact, in Maputaland, terms like loathed or detested were used when describing attitudes towards the KBNR.

Mr Fowkes said the bureau which was created in 1982 to take over the functions of the Natal Parks Board in KwaZulu had the unenviable task of trying to overcome the stigma of several years of colonial conservation policies which benefited a white elite.

Memories of perceived injustices lasted several generations, and reports of a ranger shooting

Mm, 2% of the population

*carried down in family tradition. - ;

Thus the KBNR inherited the mantle of the Natal Parks Board when it came into being.

Mr Fowkes said he found that tribal authorities were seen as ineffective in communicating news to those people directly affected by changes.

While the tribal authority may be fully briefed on a project, this information is not seen to be passed on, or is passed on in a filtered form.

Not all tribal authorities are seen as truly representing the views of all their people. Decisions may, therefore, be taken by the tribal authority which are not acceptable to local communities.

It was vital, said Mr Fowkes, that new methods were found to remedy the situation and to ensure good, direct communication.

And by allowing the private sector to have a more direct role in KwaZulu reserves, the bureau could distance itself from tourism issues which might become politicised.

If the bureau has a monopoly, for tourism development, inside conservation areas this may,

lead to the bureau being: perceived as ending
people's money on facilities for a white elite. &
There are therefore advantages in the, -
KBNR, as a government agency, being
distanced from tourist development and a situ-

ation created where the development is in the
hands of many different private sector
participants.

And if a dispute arose between the communi-
ty and a private developer, the KBNR would
be in a better position to act as an
ombudsman.

A further advantage of private sector in-
volvement, particularly in the new South
Africa, would be to act as a check against cor-
rupt government officials.

If private sector bodies are involved in tour-
ism development, and influential people are on
the board of directors, opportunities exist for
political pressure to be brought to bear on gov-
ernment employees.

Examples can be seen in some First World

countries where the private sector tail wags :
the conservation dog

er s

o

- After apartheid

A nation divided struggles
to overcome racist trad

SOUTH AFRICA, FROM 1A

Planned underclass

. stubborn metal knot in the Just as certain bottle-bred
middle of the rolling wide-cast fetuses were starved of oxygen to
veld of Natal province. Their create an underclass of servants
wheels, tongues, axles, beds â\200\224 in Aldous Huxleyâ\200\231s Brave New
even the wrinkled greenish black World, so the â\200\234Bantu Education
â\200\234canvasâ\200\235 on top â\200\224 clang to the Actâ\200\235 of 1953 legally budgete
d
touch like dull bells. black education at one-quarter
. Now the years of white domin- 'that of whites.
ion in South Africa have sud-

â\200\230zero. The whole country has have in America â\200\224 the military,
.gear-shifted into a scary, uncer- the public schools, sports compe-
tain future. In the past 2'; years, titions â\200\224 remainecf(:-igidly dis-
apartheid has been annulled. tinct here. Even the television
Blacks no longer have to obey airwaves are divided up into
curfews or avoid beaches, librar- black and white time slots.
ies or restaurants. About 205 Whites watch The Young and the
white schools have been intc-
grated. ., Afrikaans. Black children can see
White conquest and apartheid Quickdraw McGraw in Xhosa,
have created a situation in South but only if there is a television in
/Africa fully as weird as science the house. =/ :
fiction, so strange that Ameri- Whites are understandably
cans, with all their race woes, can reluctant to give up the â\200\234lekker
scarcely comprehend it. lewe,â\200\235 the â\200\234sweet lifeâ\200\235 they have
While most whites live in com- enjoyed for decades. Apartheid
fortable suburbs with shopping has tyallen inlaw, but not in fact,
malls and ice cream parlors, most and the laws fell only because of
blacks live in an abyss as deep as persistent international pressure
the subterranean. world of the combined with intolerable
Morlocks, ' described by H.G. domestic strife.
Wellsin The Time Machine. Still, an era is now ending.
It is a world of poverty, vio- Now blacks are filtering more
lence and widespread unemploy- and more into what had been
ment, where bride-prices can still all-white spaces, sleeping on hith-
be paid in the form of cows, erto-forbidden park benches.
where 40 percent of all blacklâ\200\231lâ\200\230heyareï-\201nding their way down- |
workers earn \$142 a month ortown. They are picnicking in
less, where malnutrition claims parks, trickling into libraries,
25,000 lives a year, almost all stepping into hotel lobbies.
black, where seven million peo-
ple live in â\200\234â\200\230informalâ\200\235 houses that
can scarcely even be called
shacks and where there is one
doctor for every 15,625 people.

_T'U\E N\ AN

ition

The institutions that might
denly been subtracted to moral have mixed the races as they

|Restless, called Rustelose Jare in

&â\200\235 \ (2\)\ \ ALD

~ â\200\234There is no question theyâ\200\231ve
been hard done by,â\200\235 said Bruce

Brown, a small-business man in

Johannesburg. â\200\234We whites,
â\200\230weâ\200\231ve had some very good years
â\200\230here at the expense of the blacks.
Now it is coming to an end. We
are going to have to work a lot
harder if weâ\200\231re to get by.â\200\235 =

The old Voortrekker wagons:
voyaged like creaking ships over
the bitter Drakensberg Moun-
tains during the â\200\234Great Trekâ\200\235 of
1835-38, when the Afrikaners, a

â\200\234mixed bunch of Dutch and

Huguenot families, retreated
from British encroachments and
British law.

Wide, open spaces

The vastness of southern
Africa suited them admirably.
They moved like Americans:
â\200\234They devoured the land in
10,000-acre gulps,â\200\235 as historian
Allister Sparks put it. They
staked out claims so huge a set-
tler could not see the smoke from
his neighborâ\200\231s chimney.

The wandering blacks they
encountered were swept aside,
beaten in battle or turned into
servants.

Ultimately, within this cen-
tury, South African apartheid
was fortified by 189 laws,
enacted over a period of 87 years
and aimed at depriving blacks of
land, forcing them to work
cheaply for whites and compel-
ling them to live in racially segre-
gated areas. Whole thriving black
suburbs were razed, like Sophia-,
town in Johannesburg and Area 6,
in Capetown.

Now, some whites talk about a| at
new Trek, escaping once more,
setting up a new Promised Land
beyond the mountains. The

dream lives on in conservative
proposals for a â\200\230â\200\234white home-

and give

D e E
N DT

= _ ~

would amputate half the country
] the stump to blacks.
. Grant us our freedom, and we
will move mountains, writes
Robert Van Tonder, one of the
most outspoken white separat-
ists. Give us our own state,

__where we can do it our own way,
and the world will

stand
amazed.

Biblical roles

The Bible was the Boers' anchor and the book whose word they carried and whose wondrous deeds they re-enacted, in alternating massacres and miracles. Giant family Bibles, the size of dishpans, accompanied the Boers on their trek and can be seen in churches and museums here today.

South African Airways jets still |
have a Bible-pouch on their
cabin bulkheads, with a Bible in
it. In Afrikaans translations of
the Bible, the four evangelists
were eventually transformed into
white bosses: Baas Matthew,
Baas Mark, Baas Luke and Baas
John. The four Gospels told of
the life, miracles, death and res-
urrection of *Baas Jesus.

The Bible became the bedrock

of apartheid. The conquering
Boers saw themselves as latter-
day Israelites inheriting a new
Canaan on the African subconti-
nent. Here black kaffirs were to
be treated as the Gibeonites in
the Old Testament. They would
be hewers of wood and drawers
of water.
The nonwhite races can look
this monument in gratitude,
says a brochure you can buy at
Blood River. Also for them it
brought an end to the wars of
annihilation so that the light of
the Gospel of the Cross might be
preached to them. =

uncertain future

\:-â\200\231{klanâ\200\230d,â\200\235 or Boerestaat, which Bl'Ã@amÃ@ki%ALh}l:iâ\200\231cÃ@â\200\231n_ â\200\234archbishop

Desmond Tutu sees it a bit dif-

| ferently. â\200\234When the white man

first came here,â\200\235 says Tutu, in a

joke he likes to tell, â\200\234he had the

Bible and we had the land. Then the white man said to us, â\200\230Come, let us kneel and pray together.â\200\235

â\200\234So we knelt and closed our eyes and prayed, and when we opened our eyes again, lo! We had the Bible and he had the land.â\200\235

Deep in the land lay untold mineral wealth, secured for whites alone by the Land Act of 1913, wealth that would change the country beyond recognition. South Africaâ\200\231s GDP is now \$80 billion, three times that of its 10 nearest African neighbors combined.

Today in the Geological Museum of Johannesburg you can see crude samples of it: big blue-black plugs of diamondiferous kimberlite, the matrix of the most precious crystals on earth; gold ore in interleaved rock layers of hard glittering quartzite conglomerates, faintly spangled with golden infinitesimals.

Diamonds were first found by children playing beside the Hope River in 1867. The discovery of the main flue at Kimberley resulted in the excavation of the deepest man-made hole on the planet, deep enough to hold the Empire State Building.

The 1886 Johannesburg gold rush was even more frantic.

Subterranean riches

â\200\234â\200\234A tin city with a gold basement,â\200\235 early boosters called Johannesburg. The Rand goldfields were the widest and deepest on earth, but they were also the thinnest-layered and the most diffuse.

Nonetheless, 85 cities, 22 counties and 26 states still have some form of legislation on the books forbidding investment in South Africa. s
The cumulative weight of the violence and sanctions resulted in a severe financial crisis in 1985. Chase Bank International called in its short-term loans, and the rand dropped 35 percent in

The gold was brought up mainly by black toil. Black miners were paid two shillings a day in 1910. Whites got 20 shillings. Black miners now earn about \$300 a month here.

A trio of black miners, cast in bronze and uâ\200\230pholding a huge drill, stands in front of the Johannesburg City Hall as a thank-you to the people who made it all possible. : :

Apartheid was known by many euphemisms: â\200\234Separate development,â\200\235 â\200\234Separate freedoms,â\200\235â\200\231 : 1 { > â\200\234Multinational democracy.â\200\235 are not a nation of jellyfish!

Its heyday began with the 1948 railed then president P.W. Botha, whites-only election that brought vowing that South Africa would to power the National Party now â\200\234go it aloneâ\200\235 if need be. headed by President de Klerk. It _*â\200\230Sanctions brought us up fell because of a steadily tighten- short,â\200\235 Brown said. â\200\234â\200\234You simplify
ing vise of economic sanctions cannot cut yourself off from the abroad, combined with strikes, rest of the world today. Forty boycotts and a violent â\200\234mass years ago, we could have lived on struggleâ\200\235 waged by blacks at our own, just a country on the home. â\200\231 ~southern tlg of Africa. Today
~After the Soweto uprising of there is no hope unless we inte- June 16, 1976, the violence grate into the world economy. became pandemic, spreading to Sanctions showed us that.â\200\235

160 communities. In one week

176 people died, in one year, End came quickly

more than 600. The uprising When the end came, it came itself lasted 17 months before it rapidly. In October 1989, the was finally quelled. newly elected president, F.W. de

In the meantime the collapse of Klerk, released eight high-profile Portuguese rule in Angola and activists, including Walter Sisulu the ensuing civil war involved and other members of the ANC. South Africa in an expensive mil- On Feb. 2, 1990 he announced itary buildup. The budget of the the end of apartheid. Nine days South African Defense Force ande went from \$60 million in 1960 to 27 years for treason, \$3 billion in 1982. Its fighting strength tripled. - ;

34 centd. Seven years ago it was worth \$1.40. â\200\234Donâ\200\231t underestimate us! We

was set free.

Pretoria is a small terrace where
~ But an unforeseen byproduct two former prime ministers lie
of the mili buildup was a buried amid a cluster of old
dearth of white skilled labor. graves: Hans Strijdom and Hen-
While whites went soldiering in drik Verwoerd.

Angola, blacks stepped
â\200\230vacant technical jobs and black
labor unions gained new clout.

Protest and sanctions

1940 law banning Jews from
joining the National Party. Ver-

Twala, the black captain of the who once
Bophalong soccer team, was shot lish it so
by police. Nationwide riots broke that it could never be undone.

13 days. Today it is worth about

â\200\230sanctions

later Nelson Mandela, jailed for d
In the â\200\234Heroesâ\200\231 Cemeteryâ\200\235 of
into Strijdom was responsible for a tberpatibnal

woerd, who served as prime min-
ister from 1958 to 1966, was the
"On Sept. 2, 1984, Reuben great helmsman of apartheid,

Sanctions:
a crowbar :
or hammer?

By MICHAEL BROWNING
Herald Staff Writer

JOHANNESBURG,

South Africa â\200\224 Japanese

were â\200\230â\200\234promotedâ\200\235 to white.
Chinese remained black
and were thus barred from
fashionable restaurants.
This was one of the craziest
side effects of the interna-
tional blanket of economic
thrown over
South Africa in the 1970s
and 1980s, in order to
smother-apartheid.

In those days South
Africa was broken down
into 10 shades of color and

(only whites had the free run
.of the country. The Japa-

nese owed their privileged

status to the fact that they

never joined in sanctions.
The Chinese, who railed

against apartheid and sent foreign aid to Marxist governments in Africa, were literally cast into outer darkness here.

Sanctions have yet to rop fully. Even though apartheid has been formally annulled, 85 U.S. cities, 22 counties and 26 states still have some form

of legislation on the books

forbidding investment in South Africa. A total of 201 companies
disinvested in South Africa between 1984 and 1990. j

Brakes on growth

said he hoped to establish ~ Sanctions were the main firmly in South Africa reason the South African

economy has grown at a

out and lasted for three years, Verwoerd was shot twice in the rate of 2 percent a year or causing 3,000 deaths, 30,000 head in 1960, and survived, only less since 1985, says Julian

detentions and endless property to be stabbed to death in parliament in 1966 by a random lunatic

damage.

~ Townships . 1
able. Necklacings with flaming

became ungovernable named Dimitrio Tsafendas.
Verwoerd's hard head,

.q_sculpted in gilt bronze, floats like a shiny bubble out of his tomb- more controversial, here or stone. The graves on the terrace abroad. The United States all face each other, a little /aager imposed sanctions in 1986,

gasoline-filled tires proliferated. Blacks who dared break boycotts had to eat their purchases, including soap and drain cleaner. People who drank liquor were sniffed out at bus stops by fanatic young men and given the same treatment, forced to swallow a foaming detergent until they vomited. ;

Meanwhile, economic pressure from abroad mounted. From 1986 to 1990, 154 U.S. companies withdrew from South Africa Another 23 withdrew direct investments. The United States reluctantly imposed sanctions on South Africa in 1986. These were

" lifted in July 1991. :

of the dead.

Ogilvie Thompson, chair-
of the Anglo-
American Corp. of South

Few measures have been

over the veto of then Presi-
dent Ronald Reagan, who
likened South Africa to a
zebra, whose white stripes
could not be targeted or
hurt without harming the
black stripes. ;

From 1986 to 1990, 154

U.S. companies withdrew
from South Africa. Another
23 withdrew direct invest-
ments. A few stayed on
under other names. =~ |

" Are sanctions a crowbar
or a hammer? Do they lever
up changes and speed his-

tory or crush the common
people for the sins of the

leaders?

To many, one's position
on sanctions is a litmus test
of one's racial morality,"
writes Allister Sparks in
The Mind of South Africa.

To be critical of sanctions
is to be a closet aparthei-
dist. To others, support for

* sanctions is to be a moralis-

tic carpetbagger who is pre-
pared to raze a viable econ-
omy and inflict mass
human suffering in order to
satisfy one's own sense of
self-righteousness.

Sanctions destroyed
thousands of jobs and pre-
vented the creation of thou-
sands more jobs," said Suz-
anne Voss, a spokesman for
the Zulu Inkatha Freedom
Party, which broke bitterly
with the ANC over sanc-
tions.

ANC stance on sanctions

The African National
Congress still advocates
sanctions against South
Africa and has been widely
criticized for its stubborn-
ness. Now that apartheid
has been formally abol-
ished, oughtn't sanctions to

be lifted forthwith?

â\200\234Whites have always been angry about sanctions, but I tell you sanctions have fought this white government to the ground,â\200\235 said Dulla Omar, an ANC spokesman and a Cape Town lawyer who helped defend Nelson Mandela when the leader was still in prison.

â\200\230â\200\234They brought the apartheid regime to its knees. We believe that blacks generally supported sanctions. They raised the morale of the people.â\200\235

Why does the ANC persist with its call for sanctions?

â\200\234Because we have not achieved democracy yet,â\200\235 Omar answered. â\200\234We do not believe Mr. de Klerk supports true democracy. So it is necessary for the pressure on the regime to be maintained.â\200\235

â\200\234We are not unmindful of the suffering sanctions cause ... but the white community is still holding on to its privileges. ... As

â\200\230yet we have only the prom-

ise of change, not change itself.â\200\235

12A MONDAY, MAY 25, 1992
THE MIAMI HERALD

SOUTH AFRICA IN TRANSITION

MONUMENT:

Steel replicas of
covered wagons
commemorate
Boer settlersâ\200\231 Dec.
16, 1838, victory
over the Zulus at
Blood River in the
Natal province.

NRTR- NERCuey oS- og-on

City

councillor -

Sarkin joins ANC

DURBAN City Council-
lor Ros Sarkin made
history yesterday by be-
coming the first ANC
member to serve on the
council.

Her membership of the ANC
was announced by Southern
Natal regional chairman Jeff
Hadebe at a press briefing in
Durban at which Mrs Sarkin,

By Simon Zwane

councillor for Mitchell Park,
was present. 2

She told the Mercury she
had joined the ANC for ideological
reasons.

Mrs Sarkin, chairman of the
council's creative and recrea-
tion department, said she be-
lieved the ANC's policy rep-
resented the best hope of ach-

ieving a non-racial, non-sexist
South Africa.

It was not unique for a
councillor to change his or her
position when the situation
and conscience dictated. She
pointed out, however, that
she would continue to serve
her ward.

Her move follows that of
five Democratic Party MPs
who joined the ANC in April.

They included two Natal

MPs, Mr Pierre Cronje, of
Greytown, and Mr Rob Has-
well, of Pietermaritzburg
South.

Mr Haswell is also deputy
mayor of Pietermaritzburg.

Mrs Sarkin said she took the decision to join the ANC after a meeting with Mr Mewa Ramgobin, chairman of the art and culture desk of the ANC in Southern Natal, and Mr Wally Serote who is national chairman of the ANC art and culture desk.

The meeting, which was held last week, had been called to work out a constitution for the Durban International Film Festival, of which she is director.

The announcement was made at the end of a regional policy conference of the ANC | which Mrs Sarkin attended. |

She was obviously moved by the warm and cheerful welcome she received from the

I 250 delegates.

Mrs Sarkin appeared confident that her decision was the right one.

Civic Action League chairman and Durban city councillor |
Mr Arthur Morris said: "It |
does not surprise me at all because I thought she was a member of the ANC long ago with several others in council: whose names I shall not mention."

Mr Crispin Hemson, chairman

|
: man of the Berea Residents' Association, said that whatever party councillors be-

longed to they still had a duty to represent voters in their ward. |